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Editorial comment or news items should be E-mailed to 3241437@mciemail.com or B.PASTERNAK@genie.geis.com. Voice or FAX to +1 805-296-7180.

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #106 - POSTED 01/09/94

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[856]

* * * The following is a QST * * *

The ARRL takes a strong stand against instant licensing. It says that its time for all hams to say no!

ARRL: NO TO INSTANT LICENSING

The American Radio Relay League has said no to the FCC's idea for a so-called "Instant License." The league says that P.R. Docket 93-267 is fraught with misgivings, not the least of which would be the inability of the amateur radio community to identify a person who has passed an Amateur Radio examination from someone who simply bought a radio, made up a call sign and went on the air.

By way of background, it was last November that the FCC issued the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in which it proposed that temporary operating authority for up to 120 days be granted to anyone who had earned a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. This, by passing the examination elements required to get any class of Amateur Radio license. The FCC put very few limitations on the program. It did say that any person with a history of non-compliance with the Amateur Service Rules would not be eligible to apply. It also noted that the FCC retained the right to cancel the operating authority at any time. And that was it. There were no other clear cut safeguards against abuses included in the proposal and that's what worried many hams.

Now, writing in the January 1994 edition of QST Magazine, ARRL-Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ states that the league has several major concerns with the proposal. These are with the planned system for on-the-air identification and the fact that the FCC has not proposed any safeguards to keep massive bootlegging from occurring.

Sumner notes that the call sign system being proposed would not in all cases conform to ITU regulations. He also points out that by being self assigned call letters, there would be absolutely no way for local amateurs concerned about the possibility of a non-licensed operator being in their midst. That there would be no way to check on the validity of the call sign being used.

The ARRL also questions whether or not the FCC has the authority to even propose such a self licensing scheme. K1ZZ notes that only a few years ago the Commission determined that it lacked the authority to implement a similar temporary licensing proposal and he goes on to question the basis on which the FCC has now made this about face.

According to Sumner the time it takes to issue a ham radio license can be cut down appreciably by eliminating much of the paperwork that now is involved and instead permit electronic filing of the completed applications by the nations Volunteer Examination Coordinators. He notes that the most of the nations VEC's appear to favor an electronic filing system to eliminate many of the paperwork delays now happening at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania License Processing facility. Sumner

says that this one change would result in the turn around time for processing any license to drop to only a few weeks while protecting the security of the license itself.

The ARRL is actively urging its members to take a strong position against the implementation of PR Docket 93-267. It has suggested that all concerned radio amateurs write in opposition to the "Instant License" proposal from the FCC.

VANITY CALL SIGN NPRM ISSUED

The FCC has now formally released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making, in PR Docket 93-305, aimed at permitting amateurs to choose a vanity call sign. Individuals as well as trustees of club stations will be eligible to request an available call sign from the block assigned to their license class or a lower license class.

A fee will be required for a vanity call sign. The Communications Act specifies a fee of 7 dollars per year for amateur service vanity call signs. It also allows the Commission to require payment of the fee in advance for a number of years not to exceed the relevant license term. Fee issues would be resolved under a separate FCC rule making proceeding, and the vanity call sign system would not be started until then, the FCC said.

If enacted, an applicant would have to provide the Commission a list of up to ten total call signs desired. The FCC would assign the first available requested call sign from the applicant's list. If none of the desired call signs was available, the applicant's current call sign would be reassigned.

Call signs of lapsed or deceased licensees would not be available for reassignment for two years. A call sign relinquished under the vanity call sign program would be available for reassignment immediately.

The FCC said that even with its new automated licensing process it did not expect to be able to offer amateurs on-line access in order to check for call sign availability. It did however ask for comments on how such a service could be provided. The FCC says that its eventual goal is to accept all license applications electronically.

The comment deadline for P. R. Docket 93-305 is March 7, 1994. Reply comment deadline is April 7, 1994. The ARRL is asking its members to let their Division Directors know how they feel on this one as soon as they possibly can.

LOS ANGELES PROBE

The probe into allegations of possible wrong doing by a growing number of Southern California Volunteer Examiners has taken a new twist. This, with word that some hams who upgraded at sessions run by these examiners have received letters from the FCC telling them that their tests have been disqualified. This is something that was expected from the outset since the FCC routinely takes this action anytime it deems a session is suspect.

What makes this case different is the possible number of hams that could receive these notices. Newsline has learned that some of the test sessions involved took place almost a year ago. This means that some of those returning to lesser class licenses may themselves have become Volunteer Examiners and that the test sessions that they administered could be disqualified as well.

Right now, the letters going out order the recipient to immediately cease using his or her upgraded privileges and to forward to the FCC by registered mail any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination that have been awarded to them. The letters also reportedly say that in cases where the certificates have been used for further upgrade that the applicant must provide to the FCC the date, time and location of the testing session, the name of the Volunteer Examination Coordinator and the names, call signs and addresses of the Volunteer Examiners who provided the test.

If our information is correct and we have reason to believe that it is, then as many as 200 Southern California upgrades could be affected.

LLOYD COLVIN, S.K.

Some sad news to report. Word has reached Newsline that famed DXpeditioner Lloyd Colvin, W6KG has died. Charles Mc Henry, W6BSY says that he received word from the Lloyd's son-in-law with word that W6KG passed away on December on 13th in Ankara, Turkey. At the time of his death, Lloyd and his wife Iris W6QL were in Ankara waiting for licenses to be issued for their next on-the-air operation. They expected their Turkey operation to last at least three months. In their long career as prominent DXers, Lloyd and Iris had operated from over 150 countries. DXer Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, dead at age 78.

NEWSPAPER WRONG

Word that Thomas Lee Larsen, a convicted child molester now charged with an arson threat is not a ham. The San Jose Mercury

newspaper reported that Larson was a licensed radio amateur. We checked Larson in the FCC's Amateur Radio database and in the Sam electronic call directory. Thankfully, there is no Thomas Lee Larson to be found. Someone might want to call the San Jose Mercury and tell the newspaper that it was wrong.

SEDAR

SEDAR is an acronym for the newly formed South Eastern Dealers of Amateur Radio. The organization was formed at the Greensboro Hamfest to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members and assist all amateur club sponsored Ham Fests through out the South Eastern United States.

SEDAR is in the process of compiling an information booklet of all hamfests in approximately fourteen Southeastern states. If your club is planning to host a hamfest and your date is tentative, you may request a copy of other clubs' show dates from Sedar's secretary Kay Johnson KB4HHX, 5 Shoo Fly Circle, Ridgeville, SC 29472. Please be certain to include a self addressed stamped envelope with your information request.

NEWSLINE SPEAKERS

While on the subject of ham radio conventions, word that we at Newsline now have speakers available to talk to your radio club, hamfest, convention, convention banquet or what have you. Many of Newsline's speakers are professionals in the world of broadcast journalism or the broadcast industry and possess a wide field of knowledge on many subjects allied to news gathering and dissemination. Through them you can learn the way that these Newsline bulletins are researched, authenticated, written, recorded and put to air while also finding out the advantages of having weekly Newsline ham radio news bulletins as a regular feature on your net or repeater. There is no honorarium charged within 25 miles of Los Angeles California and expenses only required anywhere else nationwide or world-wide. At least 60 days advance notice is required on out-of-town engagements. For further information on having a Newsline speaker at your gathering, please write to us at the address you will hear at the end of the newscast. Or you can call or fax us at area code (805) 296-7180. That number is good 24 hours a day.

NJ QSO PARTY

A reminder from WB1GXM that February 12th and 13th is the

date for the 1994 New Hampshire QSO Party. There will be 14 bonus point stations from across the state. The QSO Party is also a great place to work all ten New Hampshire counties needed for the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Associations Worked All New Hampshire Award. This award is administered by the North Country Amateur Radio Association of Lancaster, New Hampshire.

DX

In DX, word that Fred Laun, K3Z0 will be active from Thailand as HS0ZAR from mid-January to mid-February. Fred says to QSL to his home call.

Also LA5EBA, will be active as JW5EBA starting in mid January for 6 months. He will work for a meteorological station on Hopen Island, which is part of the Svalbard group that may qualify for a new IOTA number.

TORA

A word of congratulations to a fine group of dedicated radio amateurs who spent New Years Eve out in the cold. Of coarse we are talking about those hams who help to coordinate the annual Tournament of Roses Parade from Pasadena, California. The group is known as TORA. That stands for Tournament of Roses Amateur Radio. Each year the TORA group is on hand to lend a hand to parade officials. Their main job comes when the floats and marchers start their way down Colorado Boulevard. Using video cameras and ham TV the TORA group is ever alert for any kind of an emergency situation that might develop. If they spot something they send their pictures back to the parade coordinator who can take the necessary action, TORA pioneered the use of ham television in the Tournament of Roses Parade almost two decades ago and the group has been refining the technology ever since.

TOR-TV

Also, for those of you who tuned in early enough to catch the CBS network pre-parade show titled Coming Up Roses, be advised that it had a ham radio connection. Anyone who caught the credits may have spotted it. Coming Up Roses was produced and edited by the same ham who co-produced the award winning New World of Amateur Radio. His name is Frosty Oden, N6ENV.

WESTLINK YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

The Westlink Report ham radio newsletter has announced that its annual Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented June the 4th at 1994 Sea Pac Convention in Seaside Oregon. The Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year award was conceived to honor the younger members of the Amateur Radio Community. Hams aged 18 and younger who have used Amateur Radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of the service, to their community or the nation are eligible for it. With corporate underwriting from Yaesu USA Corporation, the 1994 winner will receive a trip to the Sea Pac convention, a piece of ham radio equipment and a special plaque denoting his or her accomplishments.

The cutoff date for submitting applications is April the 15th. The Winner will be notified in early May. All nominations must be submitted on an official application available for a self addressed stamped envelope to the Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year, 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus, California 91350.

And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, California 91102.

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